Supply policy of coal

6740. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that entire supply policy of coal revolves round the bulk consumers and organised sectors;

(b) whether there is no mechanism or fixed policy for organised sector and cottage and small scale industries and Int. Bhatta Udyog; and

(c) whether any survey has been done by the Marketing Division of coal India Ltd. to assess the consumption of coal by organised sector such as power houses, steel plants etc. and unorganised sector as well as village and cottage industries etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Although bulk consumers including Power, Cement, Steel, Fertilizers and Railways Account for 85 per cent of coal supplies by Coal India Ltd., elaborate policy framework has been evolved for meeting the coal requirements of smaller consumers including cottage and small scale industries and 'Int. Bhatta Udyog.'

(c) Annual Assessment of sectoral coal consumption in the country is made by Planning Commission in consultation with whom sectoral annual demand targets are finalised.

The assessment of unit-wise demand are made by respective State Sponsoring Authorities for the non-core sector consumers and by concerned inter Ministerial bodies like Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for core sector consumers such as power, cement and steel.

Foreign assistance for technology in coal sector

6741. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign investment has been sought from France, England, Canada, Germany, Australia, China and USA for technology in respect of blasting galleries and Longwall Sub-level Caving and for lignite mines;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any assistance has been sought on turn key basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Currently no investment has been sought from England, Canada, Australia, China and USA for technology in respect of blasting gallery and longwall sub-level caving in coal mines and for lignite mines.

France is currently giving assistance for introduction of blasting gallery technology in two mines, namely, GDK-10 Incline and GDK-8 Incline, of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL). Total contract value for these two projects is FF 63.65 million. GDK-10 Incline has since been completed and GDK-8 Incline is progressing as per schedule. Agreement includes a provision of performance guarantee for both these projects. Recently French Government have agreed to provide credit of FF 25 million for introduction of blasting gallery technology in VK-7 project of SCCL.

In lignite sector, Germany has been supplying technology and making available concessional credits. Bilateral discussions between India and Germany to obtain financial support for 1st Mine Expension Project and for other non-mining projects of Neyveli lignite Corporation are in progress. Foreign exchange component for the 1st Mine Expansion Project has been estimated at DM 227.48 Million. The Capacity of the lignite mine is proposed to be

increased to 10.5 Million Tonnes per annum from its present capacity of 6.5 Million Tonnes per annum as a result of this expansion project.

(c) For none of these projects, assistance was sought on turnkey basis.

Assistance sought by CIL for thick seam underground mining

6742. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited is seeking assistance from France and England for thick seam underground mining; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal India Ltd. is presently getting assistance of CDFI, France, for thick seam underground mining at Kotadih mine of Eastern Coal fields Ltd., wherein the technology for extraction of 4.5 metres thick coal seam using single shoe Longwal method is being tried. The extraction of coal has started since July, 1994. However, presently there is no other proposal for seeking assistance for thick seam underground mining from either France or England.

Violation of Collery Control Order, 1945

6743. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Colliery Control Order, 1945 has been violated;

(b) if so, how many cases have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) whether any punishment has been given to those who have violated it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of Colliery Control Order, 1945 (as amended from time to time) coal companies supply coal to actual users on the basis of linkages established and/or on the basis of sponsorships issued by the sponoring authorities. Unauthorised diversion/resale of coal obtained by actual users for their own use is an offence punishable under the Essential Commodities Act.

The office of Coal Controller does not appear to have received any complaints regarding violations of Colliery Control Order. However in case of violation of the provisions of the Colliery Control Order, 1945 by way of unauthorised diversion/resale of sponsored coal action has to be taken by the State spossoring authorities/law and order enforcing agencies, under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act.

News items noncerning PSUs handling coal

6744. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI G. S. SWELL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the "Indian Express" dated the 1st May, 1995 under the caption "Scandal in Bihar PSUs take the fire out of Bofors";

(b) if so, what is the response of Government regarding the coal shortage, adulteration of coal and supply of coal high content of ash and clay;

(c) whether it is a fact that Rs. 100 crore have been lost by public sector units handling coal during the last few years;